



# CITY OF LODI

## COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

**AGENDA TITLE:** Request by the East Side Improvement Committee to Initiate a Carrier Alert Program in Conjunction with the Post Office

**MEETING DATE:** September 7, 1994

**PREPARED BY:** City Clerk

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Discussion and appropriate action.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** The City Clerk's office received a request from the East Side Improvement Committee to be placed on the agenda of September 7, 1994 to ask for Council concurrence in initiating a Carrier Alert Program in conjunction with the Post Office. Please see letter from East Side Improvement Committee attached. Virginia Snyder will be present to present the matter on behalf of the committee.

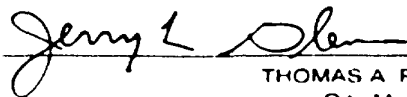
**FUNDING:** None required.

  
Jennifer M. Perrin  
City Clerk

JMP

Attachment

APPROVED



THOMAS A. PETERSON  
City Manager



RECYCLED PAPER

RECEIVED  
EASTSIDE IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

*Citizen Volunteers Fighting Crime, Drugs, and Blight*

P.O. Box 2444  
Lodi, Ca. 95241  
(209) 368-8848

September 7, 1994

TO: Lodi City Council  
FROM: Virginia Snyder  
RE: Carrier Alert Program

The Eastside Improvement Committee respectfully requests council consent for our group to explore the possibilities for implementing a Carrier Alert Program in Lodi.

Many of our neighborhoods are sometimes deserted during the day when residents are away at work. Since these postal employees often know our streets better than those who live there, they are in a good position to spot unusual activity.

If council consents, this program provides cellular telephones to be carried by mail carriers as they walk through our neighborhoods delivering mail. Without exposing themselves to risk, carriers can unobtrusively call the police if they spot suspicious activity.

Postmaster Boyd Lambertsen has discussed the idea with postal employees, and he suggests a pilot program beginning with three mail carriers who are enthusiastic about the idea.

Police Chief Larry Hansen would like a six-month trial period to see how this would work out. Captain Jerry Adams would set up a program to train postal employees on how to spot possible criminal activities and note information that would be helpful to the police.

The cost is an important factor. For this trial period, we would solicit donations of cellular phones from citizens and service clubs, and would also solicit funds to cover the monthly charges by the telephone company.

After the six-month trial period, we would evaluate the program. If the postmaster, police chief, and city council deem it one more useful tool in the fight against crime, we would explore the possibility of obtaining grants for the expansion of the program. We do need a track record, though, before applying for both private and federal grants.

Since there are probably more postal mail carriers than there are police officers, putting all those extra eyes and ears on our streets could be a real benefit. If the program is successful, we will forward the idea on to the state attorney general and the federal attorney general for possible broader use. We respectfully request your consent for us to explore the possibilities for implementing this trial plan.